Rollins College

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Syllabus for Congress and Presidency

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/richard_skinner/40/
GOVERNMENT 334: CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course, you will come to understand how Congress and the Presidency function within our system of separated powers. You will also learn how they interact with other entities in the political world, such as the media, interest groups, the judiciary and the bureaucracy. You will also learn the critical role that political parties play in both Congress and the executive branch.

This is a writing-intensive course with a major research paper at its heart. For many of you, it will be a critical preparation for your senior thesis and you should feel free to use it as a “dry run.” The paper must involve significant research on your part; it must also state a clear thesis and support it with relevant information. I also recommend that you acknowledge likely opposing arguments and develop coherent arguments against them.

COURSE GRADE:
Midterm: 25%
Final Exam: 25%
Bibliography 5%
Rough draft 10%
Research Paper: 25%
Attendance and Participation: 10%

OUTSIDE READING: I strongly recommend that you read a daily newspaper.

RESEARCH PAPER: Students must write a 20-to-25 page research paper about a subject concerning Congress, the Presidency or both. I expect to hear from you frequently about your progress.

Topic due February 9. Simply inform me (preferably by e-mail) what topic you will study. I must approve your topic. When choosing a topic, I recommend that you consult with me early and often.

Prospectus due February 16. Your prospectus should be 1-2 pages long and explain why you have chosen this topic, why it is important, and how you intend to conduct your research.

Bibliography due March 1. Your bibliography should list those works you intend to use in writing your research paper. Explain the importance of each work and how it fits into your overall project. I expect that you will list at least 5-6 books or articles.

Rough draft due April 7
Research paper due May 6
ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION: I expect that you attend every class and do all the assigned reading. I also expect that you participate in class discussion and all other activities.

LATE POLICY: Assignments are due at 5 PM on the day listed in the syllabus. After that, late papers will be penalized one-third of a letter per day. If you foresee a serious problem with submitting an assignment on time, please notify me well in advance.

BOOKS:


All other readings will be on electronic reserve.

Assignments:

January 19-21: Introduction: Congress in a System of Separated Powers
    Davidson & Oleszek, chs. 1-2
    Dodd and Oppenheimer, chs. 1-2
    Sinclair, ch. 1

January 26-February 2: Congress and the Public
    Davidson & Oleszek, ch. 3-5
    Bond and Fleisher, ch. 2
    Dodd & Oppenheimer, ch. 3-5, 7

February 4-11: The Legislative Process
    Davidson & Oleszek, chs. 8-9
    Sinclair, chs. 2-6
    Dodd & Oppenheimer, ch. 10

**Topic due February 9**

February 16-23 Parties and Party Leaders
    Davidson & Oleszek, ch. 6
    Dodd and Oppenheimer, chs. 11-12
Prospectus due February 16

February 25: **Midterm Exam**

March 1-3: The Presidency in Context
   Pika and Maltese, ch. 1
   Nelson, chs. 1-5
   Campbell and Rockman, ch. 3

Bibliography due March 1

March 8-10: The Presidency and the Public
   Pika and Maltese, ch. 3
   Nelson, chs. 8-14
   Campbell and Rockman, ch. 2 & 9

March 29-31: The Personal Presidency; the President as CEO
   Pika and Maltese, chs. 4 & 6
   Nelson, chs. 6-7, 15-16
   Campbell and Rockman, chs. 1, 4

April 5-7: The President, Congress and Foreign Policy
   Pika and Maltese, chs. 10-11
   Davidson and Oleszek, ch. 15
   Dodd and Oppenheimer, ch. 14
   Campbell and Rockman, ch. 8

April 12-19: Congress, The President and Domestic Policy
   Pika and Maltese, chs. 5, 8-9
   Davidson and Oleszek, chs. 10 & 14
   Nelson, chs. 17
   Campbell and Rockman, ch. 7

Rough draft due April 7

April 21-28: Legislating Together
   Sinclair, chs. 7-12
   Campbell and Rockman, chs. 5

May 3: Fighting for Control of the Third and “Fourth” Branches

   Pika and Maltese, ch. 7
   Davidson and Oleszek, chs. 11-12
   Nelson, ch. 18
   Campbell and Rockman, ch. 6
May 5: **Research paper due**

May 5: Assessing the System
   Davidson and Oleszek, ch. 16
   Campbell and Rockman, ch. 11